

1. A method of releasing product for shipping, comprising:

providing a computer having a memory and a number of user inputs;

providing a product storage unit;

5 providing an exit control station;

providing a printer;

providing a product release information source;

feeding product release information into said computer from said product release information source;

10 storing said product release information in said computer memory;

entering a shipping request into one of said user inputs of said computer by a user wherein said shipping request comprises instructions to ship a quantity of product to a customer;

15 transmitting instructions from said computer to said product storage unit, said printer, and said exit control station to ship said quantity of product;

transmitting product release information related to said quantity of product from said computer memory to said product storage unit, said printer, and said exit control station;

20 printing a product release form for said quantity of product by said printer using said product release information transmitted to said printer by said computer;

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locating said quantity of product in said product storage unit, attaching said product release form, and preparing said quantity of product for shipping;

transporting said quantity of product to said exit control station;

verifying said quantity of product has said product release form attached and is the same said quantity of product identified by shipping request at said exit control station; and

shipping said quantity of product if said quantity of product has said product release form attached and is the same said quantity of product identified by said shipping request.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising taking corrective action if said quantity of product does not have said product release form attached or is not the same said quantity of product identified by said shipping request.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting confirmation of shipping said quantity of product or said corrective action taken to said computer.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said product storage unit is a warehouse.

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein said exit control station comprises a security guard.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting said product release information to said printer includes instructions to print a digital stamp on said product release form.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said product release form includes a digital stamp.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said product release form includes a customs declaration.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said verifying said quantity of product has said release form attached and is said quantity of product identified by said instructions is accomplished by a security guard.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said verifying said quantity of product has said release form attached and is said quantity of product identified by said instructions is accomplished using an electronic scanning system.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting said confirmation of shipping said quantity of product or said corrective action taken is performed by a security guard.

12. The method of claim 3 wherein said transmitting said confirmation of shipping said quantity of product or said corrective action taken is accomplished using a data terminal connected to said computer.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said product release information source is a magnetic disk.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said product release information source is a compact disk.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said product release information includes information required to produce a digital stamp and a customs declaration form.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein said user is an employee of a unit producing said quantity of product.

17. A system for releasing product for shipping, comprising:  
a computer having a memory and a number of user inputs;  
a product storage unit wherein said product storage  
unit has a control unit in communication with said computer;  
5 an exit control station wherein said exit control  
station has a control unit in communication with said  
computer;  
a printer in communication with said computer;  
a product release information source;  
10 means for feeding product release information into said  
computer memory from said product release information  
source;  
means for entering a shipping request into one of said  
user inputs of said computer by a user wherein said shipping  
15 request comprises instructions to ship a quantity of product  
to a customer;  
means for instructing said printer to print a product  
release form for said quantity of product;  
means for locating said quantity of product in said  
20 product storage unit, attaching said product release form to  
said quantity of product, and preparing said quantity of  
product for shipping;  
means for transporting said quantity of product to said  
exit control station;

25 means for verifying said quantity of product has said  
product release form attached and is the same said quantity  
of product identified by said shipping request at said exit  
control station; and

means for shipping said quantity of product if said  
30 quantity of product has said product release form attached  
and is the same said quantity of product identified by said  
shipping request.

18. The system of claim 17 further comprising means for  
taking corrective action if said quantity of product does  
not have said product release form attached or is not the  
same said quantity of product identified by said shipping  
request.

19. The system of claim 17 further comprising means for  
transmitting confirmation of shipping said quantity of  
product or said corrective action taken to said computer.

20. The system of claim 17 wherein said product storage unit  
is a warehouse.

21. The system of claim 17 wherein said exit control station  
comprises a security guard.

22. The system of claim 17 wherein said transmitting said product release information to said printer includes instructions to print a digital stamp on said product release form.

23. The system of claim 17 wherein said transmitting said product release information to said printer includes instructions to print a customs declaration on said product release form.

24. The system of claim 17 wherein said means for verifying said quantity of product has said release form attached and is said quantity of product identified by said shipping request comprises a security guard.

25. The system of claim 17 wherein said means for verifying said quantity of product has said release form attached and is said quantity of product identified by said instructions comprises an electronic scanning system.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein said means for said transmitting confirmation of shipping said quantity of product or said corrective action taken comprises a security guard.

27. The system of claim 19 wherein said means for said transmitting confirmation of shipping said quantity of product or said corrective action taken comprises a data terminal connected to said computer.

28. The system of claim 17 wherein said product release information source is a magnetic disk.

29. The system of claim 17 wherein said means for feeding product release information into said computer memory comprises a magnetic disk reader.

30. The system of claim 17 wherein said product release information source is a compact disk.

31. The system of claim 17 wherein said means for feeding product release information into said computer memory comprises a compact disk reader.

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